

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1171

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF SOLUTION TO SAO MIGUEL POLITICAL CRISIS

1. FINAL RESOLUTION OF JUNE 6TH THRU 7 POLITICAL CRISIS ON SAO MIGUEL WAS ARTFULLY EXECUTED. RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY CHIEF OF STAFF TO MILITARY GOVERNOR (SITREP 11) SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR CONSUMPTION IN LISBON. COMMUNIQUE WAS LATER PICKED UP BY EMISSORA NACIONAL IN LISBON AND REBROADCAST TO AZORES. OF COMMUNIQUE, SEPARATISTS LEADERS HERE TOTALLY UNCONCERNED BY ITS HARSH TONE, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FINAL SOLUTION TO CRISIS WOULD FAVOR THEM. THIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT FINAL WORD ON MATTER. SEPERATIST CONFIDENCE REWARDED BY ADDRESS BY MILITARY GOVERNOR MAGALHAES (SITREP 12). ADDRESS ESSENTIALLY PERSONAL GUARANTEE THAT PRINCIPAL AZOREAN OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUED POLITICAL UNION WITH PORTUGAL WOULD BE STUDIED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WITH AN EYE TO THEIR RESOLUTION.

2. MANNER IN WHICH CRISIS TERMINATED NICELY DESIGNED TO ALLOW BOTH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND SEPERATISTS TO SAVE FACE, CLAIM VICTORY. SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF EPISODE, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY DEPENDANT ON PERSONALITY OF MAGALHAES. MILITARY GOVERNOR, WHO WAS ALREADY POPULAR IN ISLANDS

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BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN POLITICAL

MATTERS, HAS EMERGED FROM RECENT EVENTS AS HERO TO AZOREANS.
WE BELIEVE THAT HE NOW KEY FIGURE IN AZOREAN POLITICAL
EQUATION.
PFEIFLE

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